

# Welcome to St. John's and St. Anthony's Kindergarten through Grade 12 Faith Formation

*“On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring them up in the practice of your faith.” (Rite of Baptism for Children)*

*Parents are the primary teachers of our faith. We ask that you share your faith with your children, sharing both your spiritual and prayer lives with them. Families are encouraged to attend Mass weekly. Please pray with your children. When they enter Kindergarten children should be familiar with the Sign of the Cross and should be learning the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Glory Be; praying together makes learning the prayers much easier for younger students.*

## Description of Programs

**Kindergarten to Grade 8** meet on Sundays from 8:15-9:15AM or 10:45-11:45AM  
**Grade 9 and 10 Students who select Course Options** meet from 12:00-1:00PM on Sundays and/or Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00PM. Along with events held on Saturdays.  
**Confirmation Classes for Candidates in Grade 11 - 12** meet on Sundays from 10:45-11:45AM

**Families are encouraged to continue their child's lesson by attending Mass. If a student is not attending Mass with their parents, it is very difficult to teach the importance of the Eucharist and the teachings of the Church if it is not seen as a priority in the home.**

Our curriculum framework is divided by age-range for children and youth. This allows for more flexibility in using an ungraded program model. The curriculum is developmental in that faith concepts are introduced gradually at appropriate age ranges; each level builds upon the previous one. There are four age ranges for our students; Primary (Kindergarten – Gr. 3), Intermediate (Gr. 4-6), Early Adolescent (Gr. 7-8), and Later Adolescent (Gr. 9-12).

Our faith formation program introduces students to God, Mary, Jesus, the lives of the Saints, the Sacraments, Liturgy and the Liturgical Year, Christian moral life, the Ten Commandments, The Trinity, Prayer and Worship, Christian Service and integrates those themes into what we believe, how we celebrate, how we live, and why we are a people of prayer. The following are just two examples of how we build upon lessons on the Bible, Mary, and Prayer.

**Primary Grades:** Children learn the Bible is the Word of God, deserving special reverence and honor. The Bible contains stories of God's love for us, and stories of Jesus, God's Son. Mary is the Mother of God and our mother. Mary said yes to God's plan to become the mother of God's Son.

Prayers children will learn: Sign of the Cross, The Lord's Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary, Glory Be, Mass responses and gestures, Act of Contrition.

**Intermediate Grades:** Children learn the Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments, and each section contains many books, written at different times. The Bible records the experience of God's people. The Bible guides us in our choices. Mary played an important role in God's plan of salvation. We believe in the Immaculate Conception – meaning that Mary was conceived without original sin. Mary is the spiritual mother of the Church.

Prayers children will learn: Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Memorare, Prayer for Vocations, Way of the Cross.

**Early Adolescent Grades:** The Bible deals with questions of faith. The stories of Genesis, the Psalms and the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) are different than the Gospel of John. Mary is first among the disciples and is model of discipleship for all of us. Mary is the patroness of the United States and the diocese of Albany under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

Prayers students will learn: Litany of the Saints, Eucharistic Adoration, Examination of Conscience.

**Later Adolescent Grades:** The Bible teaches historical events, major themes and writing styles found in the letters of Paul for example which help us to understand the issues facing the early Church. The Scriptures are used for prayers and discernment in seeking direction in our personal and communal life. We believe Mary's whole life was lived in trust of God. Mary's life is testimony to the power of God's grace on behalf of the poor and marginalized.

Prayers students will learn: Rosary, Praying with Psalms, Centering Prayer, The Magnificat.

## Interested in Becoming a Catechist?

Catechists are very special volunteers who meet with your children to share their faith.

If you are interested in the possibility of becoming a catechist please contact  
Director of Faith Formation for Kindergarten – Grade 12: Dianne Galarneau  
 [\(518\) 372-3381 ext. 226](tel:(518)372-3381) or [dgalarnau@sjechurch.com](mailto:dgalarnau@sjechurch.com)

Thank you for entrusting St. John's and St. Anthony's as we assist you in guiding your children throughout their faith journey. Our programs are designed to educate and enrich your child's faith life.

Our classes meet approximately 22 times a term. Each class includes prayer, stories, and discussion. Special events are held during Advent and Lent. Families are welcome and encouraged to attend these events.

Our volunteer catechists invest their time, energy, and faith to prepare for each class. While attendance each week is necessary, we recognize that life can be complicated. If you cannot attend, please contact Dianne Galarneau prior to class.